

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated October 19, 2004. A response is due February 19 2005, with a one-month Request for Extension of Time for response.

Claims 1-5, 9-19 and 21-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 9-19, 21 and 22 are allowed.

The only rejected claims are claims 23-25 and the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hougham et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,324,813) in view of Gardner et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,080,640).

In the Response to Argument, the Examiner has stated the following:

“In response to the Applicant’s arguments that the presently claimed invention does not cure the polyimide but that it would destroy the primary reference to remove the curing step of the invention, it is first noted that the claims do not exclude curing steps and thus encompass methods including a curing step. Secondly, the original claims call for curing the polyimide. This seems contradictory to the applicant’s arguments.”

The presently amended claims now include the limitation “and dry said polyimide layer or film without further curing the polyimide.” Thus, the presently cited references Hougham and Gardner do neither anticipate nor obviate the present invention because they are directed to the inclusion of a further curing step. At this point in time, the undersigned cannot explain why the prior counsel who drafted this application included the language “and to cure the polyimide.” in the original claims. The specification clearly supports the fact that the coating is dried but not cured. Further, on page 21, lines 11-13, the example shows that samples were placed in a vacuum oven and dried at 180°C for 48 hours.

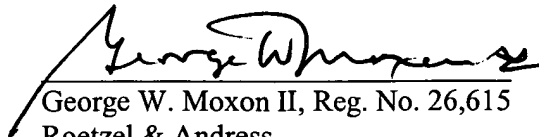
Hougham clearly teaches a different approach in column 5, lines 33-66, that the film was further heated to 200°, 250°, and 300°C. Also, in column 6, lines 21-26, it states “the high temperature cure may be from about 200°C to 350°C”.

In view of the presently amended claims, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 23-25, in view of Hougham and Gardner is respectfully requested. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2004

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Moxon II", is written over a horizontal line.

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